NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

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## Satellite Communications to be Tested in Health Care Delivery

The Library's Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications recently awarded a contract to the University of Alaska for an experiment in satellite voice communications to support health care delivery in remote areas of that state where reliable telecommunications facilities do not exist. A Public Health Service medical officer, Dr. Barry Beattie, has been assigned to Alaska to provide liaison and evaluation for the project during the next two years.

Twenty-six supporting site locations throughout the State of Alaska will be strategically located in order to evaluate potential major improvements in health communications. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Applications Technology Satellite (ATS-I), in synchronous orbit over the Pacific Ocean, will provide the voice communication channels for medical consultation between remote villages and Service Unit Hospitals, and between those hospitals and the Alaskan Native Medical Centers. Several other hospitals are also included in the network.

The experiment will test the usefulness of satellite communications in providing remote support and in developing a corps of medical personnel experienced in operational procedures for satellite communications. It is anticipated that equipment will be installed before winter (1971/72). Planning is under way to use some of the system, in cooperation with the Office of Education, for education of native children.

In connection with the Alaska experiment, contracts have also been awarded to the universities of Wisconsin and Washington, and to Stanford University. Staff of the medical centers at those institutions will cooperate in identifying appropriate medical information for transmission via the ATS-I satellite, and evaluate the quality of the information and its usability for diagnostic purposes after transmission. Designated information will then be considered for inclusion in the University of Alaska's health care delivery experiment.

## NLM Regents Convene

Dr. William G. Anlyan, vice president for health affairs at Duke University, was elected chairman of the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine at the spring meeting of the group, held June 14-15 in Bethesda. He succeeds Dr. Robert H. Ebert, dean of Harvard Medical School, who has served as chairman for the past year.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
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NLM Director Martin M. Cummings presented to Dr. Ebert, who completes a four-year term on the Board of Regents on August 1, the National Institutes of Health certificate of appreciation for his services as chairman of the Regents. Two other retiring members, Dr. Frederick H. Wagman, director of the University of Michigan Library and Mr. Bruno W. Augenstein, vice president for research of the Rand Corporation, also received certificates.

Current activities of the National Institutes of Health were reviewed by Dr. John F. Sherman, NIH Deputy Director.

Dr. Eugene A. Stead, Jr., professor of medicine, Duke University, and Dr. Anlyan led a detailed discussion of the recent report submitted to the NLM by the Association of American Medical Colleges on the roles of the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communication. Dr. Stead was chairman of the committee that prepared the report. Two other invited speakers, Dr. Kenneth M. Endicott, director of the NIH Bureau of Health Manpower Education, and Dr. John A. D. Cooper, AAMC president, surveyed various aspects of the multi-media instructional methods described in the report.

The new director of the Lister Hill Center, Mr. Albert Feiner, formerly of the Magnavox Research Laboratories, outlined current activities of the Biomedical Communications Satellite Experiment in Alaska (see page 1).

Other NLM staff members who presented reports to the Regents included Dr. Charles Bridgman, Dr. Lee Langley, Dr. Harold Schoolman, and Mr. Ralph Simmons. Physician-Congressman Durward G. Hall of Missouri discussed current health legislation at a dinner attended by the Regents and NLM staff.

## Mary Corning Cited for Services to NLM

Miss Mary Corning, Special Assistant to the Director for International Programs, NLM, was one of forty-two employees to receive awards from Dr. Robert Q. Marston, Director of NIH, at the Third Annual NIH Honor Awards Ceremony on June 28 in the Clinical Center's Jack Masur Auditorium.

Miss Corning received the DHEW Superior Service Honor Award, which is presented to those employees whose services and/or achievements deserve special recognition of a high order. She was honored specifically "for her sustained excellence in international activities essential to the formulation of policies and practices for facilitating the dissemination of biomedical information by the National Library of Medicine."

## NLM Lexicographer Honored by Regents

Mr. Stanley Jablonski, Head, Index Section, Bibliographic Services Division, is the recipient of the second Regents' Award for Scholarship or Technical Achievement. A committee chaired by Miss Mary E. Corning, Special Assistant to the Director, reviewed and evaluated nominations submitted by NLM staff, applying the criteria that the work must enrich biomedicine, be original, be creative, exceed normally assigned duties, and be performed by an employee of the Library. The committee unanimously selected Mr. Jablonski for his *Illustrated Dictionary of Eponymic Syndromes and Diseases and their Synonyms*, published in 1970.

The committee's citation reads, in part: "This is the work of an outstanding lexicographer displaying a high degree of encyclopedic knowledge in the field of biomedicine. The volume represents both scholarship and a massive amount of hard work....[It] not only incorporates numerous syndromes which have been described in recent years, but it fills a void which has existed for over fifteen years in the English language....It is an especially valuable reference source for classical descriptions of disease and provides a useful and necessary supplement to standard medical dictionaries; hence it is a singular aid to both the health scientist and the librarian."

Mr. Jablonski, who also achieved distinction with his earlier publications, the *Russian-English Medical Dictionary* (1958) and the *Russian Drug Index* (1967), was abroad during the June meeting of the Board of Regents; he will, therefore, be presented with the award at the forthcoming meeting in November.

The award -- a special citation plus $100 -- established by the Board in March 1970, was made possible by a gift donated anonymously by a Library employee. It is given annually.

## NLM Well-Represented at MLA '71

More than 1,100 members and guests registered at the Seventieth Annual Meeting of the Medical Library Association, held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, May 30 - June 3, 1971. The meeting received added luster from the proclamation by President Nixon of June 1, 1971 as Medical Library Association Day, in "tribute to our medical librarians."

Preconvention events included several meetings with the Regional Medical Library Directors, at which the National Library of Medicine was represented principally by Dr. Harold Schoolman, Special Assistant to the Director for Medical Program Development and Evaluation, and Dr. Joseph Leiter, Associate Director for Library Operations.

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Three NLM staff members served as panelists in several of the nine forums presented on June 2: Robert A. Walkington, Deputy Associate Director for Extramural Programs, on "Evaluation of Regional Medical Library Programs"; Miss Emilie V. Wiggins, Head, Cataloging Section, Technical Services Division, on "Cataloging and Classification Problems"; and Dr. Leiter, on "Multi-Media Developments and Use of Microforms."

Session A of contributed papers on Thursday morning, June 3, opened with a paper presented by NLM Director Martin M. Cummings, M.D. on "The Medical Library Assistance Act: An Analysis of the NLM Extramural Programs (1965-1970)," co-authored by Miss Mary E. Corning, Special Assistant to the Director, and Dr. Cummings. Topics treated in the paper included an examination of the inter-relationship of NLM and the medical library community in recent years, a review of the programs executed under the Medical Library Assistance Act, and an assessment of the impact of this legislation on NLM, the U. S. medical library community, and the user.

Other NLM contributors were Arthur J. Broering, Chief, Resources Division, Extramural Programs, who spoke on "Medical Library Resource Grants: The Past and the Future"; Mrs. Grace T. Jenkins, Technical Information Specialist, Bibliographic Services Division, whose topic was "The MEDLARS Demand Search Quality Control Program"; and Miss Elizabeth J. Sawyers, Special Assistant to the Associate Director for Library Operations, speaking on "Union List Development/Control of the Serial Literature."

## NLM Director Receives Honorary Degree from Emory University

Dr. Martin M. Cummings received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Emory University at commencement exercises on June 7th. Dr. Cummings was on the faculty of Emory's School of Medicine and Division of Basic Health Sciences while he was director of the tuberculosis laboratory at the Communicable Disease Center and later at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Atlanta.

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